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WEDNESDAY
MAY 26, 1954

George Perkins and John Ferguson lunched with me today. They are on their way to Prince Bernhard's conference in the Netherlands, where the future of the world will be discussed. I was happy to see these two able men again.

Margaret Biddle called on me this afternoon. She told me that Monsieur Pinay has been quite ill and has been confined to his bed for some weeks with a form of jaundice. However, he is expected fully to recover his health.

John Hughes sent Ed Martin over to advise me of Hughes's conversation with Alphand today, in the course of which the latter referred to a telegram from Ambassador Bonnet stating John Campbell of the Policy Planning Staff had told Bonnet the United States Government was actively considering alternatives to EDC. The anti-EDC men in the Quai will seize upon this to assert loss of interest by the United States in EDC ratification. Hughes, Dillon and myself will make a recommendation to Washington about this matter.

I went to see Doug Dillon and talked to him regarding the mess the French are making of the so-called Saar agreement negotiated at Strasbourg.

a. In the behind-the-scenes maneuvering within the French Government on this subject, some of the roles are harder to make out than others:

a) Teitgen, as far as we know, is still standing behind the Strasbourg Agreement in its present form;

b) Grandval, Seydoux, and the Quai d'Orsay are obviously doing everything they can to kill this agreement and have inspired vicious attacks on Teitgen and the agreement by such outstanding EDC opponents as Michel Debre and Genevieve Tabouis;

c) Laniel is playing for time, presumably in the hope that he will be saved the unpleasant decision either by Socialists' failure to support voting discipline or by the government's falling on Indo-China;

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d) Maurice Schumann's role is difficult to place. He also may simply be playing for time but he would appear not to have opposed the Quai d'Orsay attempt to reopen the Strasbourg agreement and even to have thought up a certain number of objections himself;

e) Bidault seems to be entirely absorbed with Geneva and has let it be known to the press that he did not even have time last weekend to discuss the Saar during his visit to Paris.

b. The various French movements in the last two days seem to have three objectives:

a) The first is to delay the decision until early next week. Everyone, including Teitgen, agrees on this and the Chancellor has reluctantly given his assent as well.

b) To make various changes in the Strasbourg agreement, a few of them on questions of wording but most of them touching substance. There has been no evidence as yet that these proposals are in fact being made to improve the French Cabinet's reception of the agreement nor that such would in fact be the result.

c) To get the negotiations back into the hands of the Quai d'Orsay and cut Teitgen out.

c. In this situation, the best policy would seem to be:

a) To agree that the French decision should be delayed, but only until immediately after the Socialist Congress, presumably until Monday, May 31.

b) To refuse to reopen the Strasbourg agreement, except perhaps for minor face-saving (from French standpoint) changes in language which do not affect substance of accord.

c) For the Germans and others to deal only with Teitgen or Bidault and to keep these two constantly informed of all demarches made at a lower level.

d) For the outsiders to keep hands-off unless and until Teitgen loses control of the situation, and in that case to make it clear to the French Government that acceptance or rejection of the Strasbourg agreement is a test of French intentions on EDC.

Tonight we dined with the Mouchys. Philippe showed me the books written by his ancestors, the three de Noailles brothers, in the 18th Century on their various Embassies. I must try to get these. He is still adding to the collection commenced by his father of Elzevirs, of which he has several thousand titles.

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I had a long talk after dinner with Wilfrid Baumgartner. He is now in favor of the EDC. He thinks if the Indo-China affair could be settled, France might be able to join Britain and other nations in a move toward convertibility.

Indo-China negotiations continue at Geneva but I have no official connection with them, although unofficially I must listen to interminable conversations on this perplexing subject.

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